



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ANTI-POLIO PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS TO EXTEND THE ANTI-POLIO IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME TO COVER THE PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE EXTENDED PROGRAMME WAS AIMED AT INCREASING THE IMMUNITY OF CHILDREN AGAINST THIS VIRAL DISEASE.

HE APPEALED TO PARENTS TO CO-OPERATE BY BRINGING THEIR CHILDREN TO THE DEPARTMENT'S MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES FOR THE ORAL VACCINE.

MOBILE INOCULATION TEAMS FROM THE DEPARTMENT ARE ALSO VISITING SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG TO ADMINISTER ORAL VACCINE TO PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH POLIOMYELITIS HAS BEEN NON-EXISTENT FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS, RESULTS OF SEROLOGICAL SURVEYS BY THE DEPARTMENT SHOWED THAT THE HERD IMMUNITY IN HONG KONG WAS GETTING LOW AND CHILDREN WERE BECOMING MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THIS INFECTION.

UNDER THE PRESENT IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME, A NEWLY BORN BABY IS GIVEN ORAL POLIO VACCINE WITHIN THE FIRST WEEK OF BIRTH, THEN THE SECOND AND THIRD DOSES IN EIGHT WEEKS' INTERVAL WHEN HE IS THREE TO FIVE MONTHS OLD. A BOOSTER DOSE IS THEN ADMINISTERED ONE YEAR LATER.

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF AN EXTENDED PROGRAMME, CHILDREN BETWEEN SEVEN AND 12 ARE GIVEN TWO ADDITIONAL BOOSTER DOSES IN ORDER THAT THEIR HERD IMMUNITY COULD BE STRENGTHENED.

POLIO IS LARGELY A DISEASE OF CHILDREN. IN HONG KONG, 93.1 PER CENT OF THE CASES IN THE PAST OCCURRED IN CHILDREN UNDER 15. THE ONE TO FOUR AGE GROUP WAS MOST VULNERABLE, ACCOUNTING FOR TWO-THIRDS OF THE CASES.

THE DISEASE FIRST BECAME NOTIFIABLE IN HONG KONG IN JULY 1948. THE INCIDENCE OF POLIO REACHED ITS PEAK IN 1962 WITH 363 CASES RESULTING IN 52 DEATHS. POLIO IN THAT YEAR RANKED FOURTH IN THE MAJOR CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ORAL VACCINE TO HONG KONG IN 1963, POLIO WAS PUT UNDER CONTROL AND THE LAST CASE WAS REPORTED IN AUGUST 1973.

THE SPOKESMAN WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY.

+ALL PREVENTIVE AND CONTROL MEASURES MUST CONTINUE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF IMMUNITY AMONG CHILDREN AGAINST THIS DISEASE,+ HE SAID.

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CAS HELPS PREVENT HILL FIRE

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MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES AND ITS CADETS FREQUENTLY SACRIFICE THEIR WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS TO ASSIST THE FIRE SERVICES AND AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IN PREVENTING COUNTRYSIDE FIRES.

THE VOLUNTEERS TURN OUT AT THE COUNTRY PARKS AND BARBECUE SITES, TO ADVISE PICNICKERS ON WHERE TO LIGHT BARBECUE FIRES, AND TO ENSURE THAT PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES SET OUT IN THE COUNTRY PARKS CODE ARE OBSERVED, SAID MR. CHAN CHUN-YING, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CAS OPERATIONS.

SINCE THE ONSET OF THE DRY SEASON IN OCTOBER, SOME 140 CAS MEMBERS AND 30 CADETS HAVE BEEN MOBILISED ON EACH OF THE SATURDAY AFTERNOONS, SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, WHEN THE YELLOW OR RED FIRE DANGER WARNING IS GIVEN OUT.

+THE VOLUNTEERS ARE STATIONED AT STRATEGIC POINTS. 80 ARE POSTED AT THE PAK HEUNG FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL AND FIRE STATIONS IN TUEN MUN, SHA TIN AND SAI KUNG- A FURTHER 60 ADULT MEMBERS AND 30 CADETS ARE BASED AT SHING MUN COUNTRY PARK AND ROUTE TWISK MANAGEMENT AREA READY FOR PATROLLING AND RAPID DEPLOYMENT,+ MR. CHAN SAID.

+ADDITIONAL MEMBERS ARE MOBILISED TO ASSIST DURING FESTIVE PERIODS WHEN LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE FLOCK TO THE COUNTRYSIDE, SUCH AS DURING THE CHING MING, CHUNG YEUNG, CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS+ HE SAID.

MR. CHAN POINTED OUT THAT ALL CAS MEMBERS ARE TRAINED IN THE BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF HILL FIRE FIGHTING WHICH ENABLES THEM TO EFFICIENTLY BACK UP THE REGULAR FIREMEN AND FORESTRY RANGERS.

+HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER AND THE SEVERITY OF HILL FIRES THIS WINTER, SPECIAL TRAINING COURSES ARE NOW BEING ORGANISED FOR CAS MEMBERS TO FURTHER IMPROVE THEIR EFFICIENCY- THESE COURSES ARE HELD ON-SITE DURING WEEKDAYS AND ON WEEKENDS,+ HE SAID.

THESE COURSES, CONDUCTED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, INCLUDE TALKS AND PRACTICAL TRAINING ON COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION, HILL FIRE FIGHTING AND SAFETY MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED IN TIMES OF HIGH FIRE RISK.

ABOUT 240 CAS MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE SPECIAL TRAINING THIS MONTH, MR. CHAN SAID, AND MORE COURSES WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE COMING YEAR.

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SAFE CROSSING FOR PEDESTRIANS ON SAIGON STREET

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A PEDESTRIAN SUBWAY WILL BE BUILT SHORTLY AT SAIGON STREET IN YAU MA TEI TO PROVIDE A SAFE CROSSING FOR THE PUBLIC AND IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT THE WORKS FORMED PART OF A PLAN TO IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC CONDITION IN NATHAN ROAD.

+THE TRAFFIC-LIGHT-CONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING OUTSIDE THE MAJESTIC THEATRE IN NATHAN ROAD IS OVER-LOADED AND CAUSING HEAVY CONGESTION.

+WHEN WORK ON THE SUBWAY IS COMPLETED, IT WILL NOT ONLY PROVIDE A SAFE CROSSING AT THE LOCATION FOR PEDESTRIANS, BY SEPARATING THEM FROM VEHICLES, BUT WILL ALSO MINIMISE THE DISRUPTION TO TRAFFIC ON NATHAN ROAD AND HENCE IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC FLOW.+

TWO-LANE TRAFFIC IN EACH DIRECTION ALONG NATHAN ROAD WOULD BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES DURING THE CONSTRUCTION, HE SAID.

TENDERS ARE NOW BEING CALLED FOR THE WORK WHICH WILL BEGIN IN MARCH NEXT YEAR AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

IT WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 33-METRE SUBWAY ACROSS NATHAN ROAD WITH THE ENTRANCES AT SAIGON STREET, AND DIVERSION OF AFFECTED WATER DRAINS.

THE WORK HAS BEEN DESIGNED BY THE HIGHWAYS STRUCTURAL DESIGN DIVISION AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE HIGHWAYS (KOWLOON) DIVISION OF THE PWD'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN MID-LEVELS

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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (DECEMBER 27) THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS TO ENABLE THE RECONSTRUCTION OF GLENEALY.

- * GLENEALY WILL BE ROUTED ONE WAY SOUTHBOUND FROM ROBINSON ROAD TO CONDUIT ROAD. EASTBOUND TRAFFIC SHOULD USE UPPER GLENEALY FLYOVER. WESTBOUND TRAFFIC SHOULD PROCEED VIA CASTLE ROAD-
- * VEHICLES OVER TWO TONS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM USING GLENEALY SOUTHBOUND AND WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KOTEWALL ROAD AND CONDUIT ROAD-
- * THE PROHIBITION ON VEHICLES OVER TWO TONS USING CONDUIT ROAD EASTBOUND BETWEEN CASTLE ROAD AND GLENEALY WILL BE TEMPORARILY LIFTED- AND
- * VEHICLES OVER TWO TONS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM HORNSEY ROAD WESTBOUND AND CONDUIT ROAD WESTBOUND AS FAR AS ITS JUNCTION WITH CASTLE ROAD.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WATER CUT IN TAI KOK TSUI

FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TAI KOK TSUI WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR TEN HOURS FROM 8 PM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 28) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WATER MAIN WORK.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY TAI KOK TSUI ROAD, FUK TSUN STREET, TONG MEI ROAD AND CHERRY STREET, INCLUDING ELM STREET, BEECH STREET, PINE STREET, OAK STREET, ASH STREET, PALM STREET, IVY STREET, AND ANCHOR STREET.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF LEE ON ROAD

A SECTION OF LEE ON ROAD NEAR THE NEW BUS TERMINUS IN SHUN LEE ESTATE IN NGAU CHI WAN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM DECEMBER 27 (THURSDAY) TO JANUARY 5 BETWEEN 12.45 AM AND 5.30 AM DAILY.

A PEDESTRIAN STEEL BRIDGE WILL BE BUILT ACROSS THE ROAD DURING THE CLOSURE PERIODS.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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